"Univ of Rochester." Nov. 4th. 1852.

To the "Soc of Inquiry of Princeton Theo Sem:"

Dear Brethren,

Among the papers passed over into my hands as Cor. Sec. of the "Judson Soc. of Inquiry", I find an unanswered communication from you—

It should have claimed our attention before, but ascribe our negligence not to want of interest in your letter, or the cause in which together we are enlisted — rather to circumstances beyond the Society's insight or control — to be assured your letter was gratefully received, & that in future time we would love often to hear from you, as by this intercommunication, we are but carrying out the design of our Societies —

We are yet making use of the means at our disposal, for looking into the moral & religious condition of the world, by stated correspondence, monthly reports & meeting for conference & prayer — in each of which while looking out upon the world around us, & the same time looking within, & to the claims of the world seeking a response from the heart —

Responsibility, with what weight does that word fall upon the ear of the Christian scholar — Shall he slumber while from many parts of our

over land the cry is continually heard "Send us the bread of life" & from far across the water the message is borne on every returning breeze, "Come over & help us," & the Saviours voice above the rest proclaims "as ye have freely received, freely give" — as well as the christian wish to remain undisturbed when the resurrection trump shall sound to wake the slumbering dead —

We are trying to do something, though little in comparison with what we should to meet those responsibilities

Two of our last graduating class are already consecrated on the missionary altar — Two are now upon the oceans bosom, & another will soon follow them to their Asiatic home — another, bro Sherman, will soon leave for Africa, & only should she longer stretch out her hands in vain —

They are a pious, devoted band — We feel their loss — but it is the heathen's gain, & thus we willingly make the offering — & pray you with us that it may be an acceptable offering — that they may be borne safe to their field of labor & that many others may be raised up to labor with them, & when fallen to take their places —

Two of our number will probably seek a home in heathen lands at the close of the present year — Of our (about) 240. Students, about 100 are preparing for the ministry —

You have heard before now, of the stake which

which has fallen heavily upon us of late, & cut down one of our strongest pillars, Rev J. S. Maginnis, D.D.—

The messenger of death came unwelcomed by all, save its victim— He had been lingering along for some time, but was not expected so near his end, until breathing a christian spirit, & sustained by the christians hope he quietly sank away to rest—

We mourn his loss, for many of us had cherished (perhaps the selfish) wish that he might live at least another year, that we might enjoy the benefit of his instructions.

But he has gone, & we bow submissively to the fiat which has summoned him away, knowing that wise, & benevolent designs are being fulfilled——

And so in all things let us learn to trust in God. & while so many are being called away, & we are taught that neither, rank, nor station, nor dignity, no human can guard us from the tomb— Let ours be an active life, that however long or short it may be— it may be spent to some purpose— that we may bear at least some humble part in urging on the progress of that revolution which the Saviour began.

May the blessing of heaven attend your efforts to get good, & to do good, & we will hope, ever to remain your fellow laborers in this same glorious cause—

On behalf of the "Judson Soc'y of Inquiry"

J. Byington Smith Cor. Sec'—

(Soc'y of Inq'y of Princeton Theo. Sem.)